

Monsanto

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3/13/92

MAR 17 1992

Matthew Meselson
Dept. of Biochemistry
7 Divinity Avenue
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Matt:

Thank you for sending the document on disabling chemicals to me for comment.

To the extent the treaty language can remove ambiguities in the area of riot control, we should try to do it. The risks are, or I see them, as follows:

1. What will be the delays, if any, in reaching agreement on the treaty - weighed against the need for clarification and reinforcement on this issue.
2. The definition of toxic chemicals, when translated to the action of the national authority, and regulatory impact in the industry, could end up a bureaucratic nightmare. Under the definitions, aspirin would qualify. Couple that with the national authority wanting a listing of all "toxic chemicals," and you can see the potential problem.

I don't see the issue of modifying the treaty from its current position as justification for not signing the treaty. I think we (society) would be better off with a treaty that is, in this issue, flawed, than no treaty at all.

On the issue of valid verification, as opposed to this issue, we simply must have a procedure that gives an assurance that those who would do evil will not do so because of the risk of detection.

Matthew Messelson

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You've probably thought of it already, but would a small, very low-key discussion ($\frac{1}{2}$ day) with a few people from ACAD, DOD, DOS, etc., be of value?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Messelson', written in dark ink.

/cs